

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
HKU Business School

ECON1280 – Analysis of Economic Data

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Subclass A & B**

Instructor:

Dr. Ping Yu

Email: [pingyu@hku.hk](mailto:pingyu@hku.hk)

Office: KKL1108

Phone: 2857-8358

Consultation time: TBA

Teaching time and location:

Subclass A: 9:30am-12:20noon, Friday @ CPD-3.28

Subclass B: 9:30am-12:20noon, Wednesday@KKLG109

**Subclass C, D & E**

Instructor:

Dr. Xiao Betty Wang

Email: [bxwang@hku.hk](mailto:bxwang@hku.hk)

Office: KKL1007

Consultation time: TBA

Teaching time and location:

Subclass C: 14:30-17:20 Monday @ CYPP4

Subclass D: 13:30-16:20 Tuesday @ CPDLG.07

SubclassE: 13:30-16:20 Thursday @ MWT7

**Subclass F & G**

Instructor:

Dr. Cynthia Cao

Email: [xcao@hku.hk](mailto:xcao@hku.hk)

Office: KKL 407

Consultation time: TBA

Teaching time and location:

Subclass F: TBA

Subclass G: TBA

**Subclass H, I & J**

Instructor:

TBA

Email: TBA

Office: TBA

Consultation time: TBA

Teaching time and location:

Subclass F: TBA

Subclass G: TBA

*\* Please send your emails to us directly from your email account instead of using the email communication*

*facility in Moodle.*

**Pre-requisites:**

Level 2 or above in HKDSE Mathematics Module 1 or 2, or a pass in MATH1011 University Mathematics I or concurrent registration in MATH1011.

**Mutually Exclusive Courses:**

STAT1601 Elementary Statistical Methods  
STAT1602 Business Statistics,  
STAT1603 Introductory Statistics  
STAT 2901 Probability and Statistics: Foundations of Actuarial Science

**Note:** This course is NOT open to students taking or having taken STAT2601 Probability & Statistics I.

**Co-requisites:** None

**Course Website:** Available through HKU Portal e-learning

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course studies the measurement and interpretation of economic variables, and how to model their relationships using appropriate empirical methods. Topics include interpretation of headline statistics, describing economic aggregates, modeling of economic relationships and drawing conclusions from observations.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To provide a thorough understanding of basic statistical concepts and tools.
2. To apply statistical methods to real world problems.
3. To provide the essential background knowledge for ECON2280.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Course Learning Outcomes

Aligned Faculty Learning Goals

CLO1: Collect, summarize and present data useful for decision making.	Goal# 1, 2, 3, 5
CLO2: Estimate the parameters of variables.	Goal# 1, 2, 3
CLO3: Test hypotheses about the parameters of variables.	Goal# 1, 2, 3
CLO4: Test hypotheses using ANOVA.	Goal# 1, 2, 3
CLO5: Apply the graphical and statistical functions of the statistical software R to present and analyze data.	Goal# 1, 2, 3, 5

\* Faculty Learning Goals are as follows:

FLG1 Acquisition and internalization of knowledge of the programme discipline

FLG2 Application and integration of knowledge

FLG3 Inculcating Professionalism

FLG4 Developing global outlook

FLG5 Mastering communication skills

FLG6 Cultivating leadership

#### **COURSE TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

<b>Course Teaching and Learning Activities</b>	<b>Expected contact hour</b>	<b>Study Load (% of study)</b>
T&L1. Lectures.	36	30%
T&L2. Problem sets	36	30%
T&L2. Tutorials.	12	10%
T&L3. Self-study.	36	30%
Total	120	100%

<b>Assessment Methods</b>	<b>Brief Description (Optional)</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Aligned Course Learning Outcomes</b>
A1. Assignments		10%	CLO1-5
A2. Midterm Test		40%	CLO1-5
A2. Final Exam		50%	CLO1-5
	Total	100%	

#### **STANDARDS FOR ASSESSMENT**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Course Grade Descriptor</b>
A+, A, A-	Strong evidence of superb ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at all levels of learning: describe, apply, evaluate and synthesis.
B+, B, B-	Strong evidence of ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at all levels of learning: describe, apply, evaluate and synthesis.
C+, C, C-	Evidence of adequate ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at low levels of learning; such as describe and apply, but not at high levels of learning such as evaluate and synthesis.

D+, D	Evidence of basic familiarity with the subject.
F	Little evidence of basic familiarity with the subject.

**Assessment Rubrics for Each Assessment**

The assignments are mainly from the textbook. The midterm and final will mimic the assignments.

**Means/Processes for Student Feedback on Course**

The students can provide their feedbacks through the SETL questionnaire or emailing the instructor directly.

**Required/Recommended Readings & Online Materials**

Required Textbook:

*Statistics for Business and Economics* (Global Edition, 9th edition), by Paul Newbold, William Carlson and Betty Thorne, Pearson, 2019

**Note:** It is your own responsibility to acquire the 9th edition of the textbook. The instructor and TA are prohibited from uploading end-of-the-chapter questions in Moodle due to copyright regulations. A copy of the textbook will be put on reserve, and a few electronic copies are available from the university library.

**COURSE CONTENT AND TENTATIVE TEACHING SCHEDULE**

Week 1, Describing Data: Graphical (Chapter 1)

Week 2, Describing Data: Numerical (Chapter 2)

Week 3, Probability: Random Experiment, Rules of Probability, Bayes' Theorem (Chapter 3)

Week 4, Discrete Random Variables: Binominal/Poisson/Hypergeometric Distributions (Chapter 4)

Week 5, Continuous Random Variables: Normal/Exponential Distributions (Chapter 5)

Week 6, Sampling Distribution Theory: Central Limit Theorem (Chapter 6)

Week 7, Hypothesis Testing: One Population (Chapter 9)

Week 8, Hypothesis Testing: Two Populations (Chapter 10)

Week 9 Confidence Interval Estimation: One Population and Two Populations (Chapters 7 and 8)

Week 10, Analysis of Variance: One-Way and Two-Way ANOVA (Chapter 15)

Week 11, Nonparametric Statistics: Goodness-of-Fit Tests, Contingency Tables, Signed and Rank Tests (Chapter 14)

Week 12, Sampling: Stratified, Cluster, and Other Sampling Methods (Chapter 17)

**Note:** Chapters 11-13 and 16 and sections involving time series will not be covered.

**COURSE POLICIES**

1. Lecture PPT/PDF files will be posted on Moodle before each class. Please download and bring them

to class.

2. Bring paper and be prepared to take notes in each lecture.

3. Tutorials:

3.1 Tutorials start in the *third* week of class.

3.2 A set of tutorial questions will be posted on Moodle one week in advance.

3.3 You are expected to come to the tutorials *fully prepared*, i.e. you have already worked out the problem set before attending the tutorials. In this way, you can follow better and the TA can spend time to discuss the questions with you.

3.4 The tutorials are dedicated to working out the tutorial questions. The TA will not give you another mini-lecture to summarize previous week's lecture.

4. Assignments: **All assignments must be typed**. This is a course policy that applies to all subclasses in all academic years. Please learn how to use LaTeX or MS Word's equation editor to type equations.

5. Lecture PPTs are not designed as substitutes for the textbook or coming to class. It pays to come to class for two reasons.

(a) Elaboration and some examples/handouts will be done only in class. You will miss a lot of material if you skip classes.

(b) The course requires students to not only know the technical calculation but also the ability to *explain* the economic intuition of statistical concepts and empirical results to end users.

6. **R**: You will be taught to use the statistical package R via a front-end called RStudio in this course, both of which are free and open source.

7. Midterm examination policies: No supplementary midterm examination will be given. If you have a legitimate reason for missing the midterm, its weight will be added to the final exam. The only legitimate reason is sickness. If you cannot attend the midterm exam, you must inform the instructor or TA in person or via email (preferred) *before* the exam starts. In the case of sickness, you must provide a medical certificate to verify that you have sought medical treatment *prior* to the exam and that you are unfit to take the exam.

8. Do check your email regularly for course announcements from the instructor. But do not abuse the convenience of emails.

a. Do not ask about things you are supposed to know, such as those appear in Moodle or emails from the instructor/TA.

b. Minimize emailing your questions to the instructor/TA since it is often difficult to answer questions effectively via emails. Please go to see them in person during their office hours.

9. Classroom conduct: Be a considerate and mature person. The instructor and TA have the discretion to impose penalty in case of classroom misconduct.

a. Do not videotape or audio record the lectures in class since the recorded lectures would be uploaded in Moodle.

b. Please observe the following good practice:

- Come to class and return from the break on time.

- In case you are late, minimize disruption to the class by sitting at the back.

- If you have to leave the class early, please inform the instructor beforehand and sit close to the door.

- Stay attentive and do not chat with your classmates.

- Use of mobile phone for *any* purposes is strictly prohibited. Remember to turn it off.

## 10. Academic Conduct

The University Regulations on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced! Please check the University Statement on plagiarism on the web: <http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism/>

Academic dishonesty is behavior in which a deliberately fraudulent misrepresentation is employed in an attempt to gain undeserved intellectual credit, either for oneself or for another. It includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following types of cases:

- a. Plagiarism - The representation of someone else's ideas as if they are one's own. Where the arguments, data, designs, etc., of someone else are being used in a paper, report, oral presentation, or similar academic project, this fact must be made explicitly clear by citing the appropriate references. The references must fully indicate the extent to which any parts of the project are not one's own work. Paraphrasing of someone else's ideas is still using someone else's ideas, and must be **acknowledged**.
- b. Unauthorized Collaboration on Out-of-Class Projects - The representation of work as solely one's own when in fact it is the result of a joint effort. Where a candidate for a degree or other award uses the work of another person or persons without due acknowledgement:
  - (1) The relevant Board of Examiners may impose a penalty in relation to the seriousness of the offence;
  - (2) The relevant Board of Examiners may report the candidate to the Senate, where there is *prima facie* evidence of an intention to deceive and where sanctions beyond those in (1) might be invoked.

**Plagiarism will automatically result in at least a zero score in the plagiarized assignment or examination. Serious cases will be referred to the University's Disciplinary Committee.**